VIP

Post 2/28/74

What It's Like, Working With Julie

By Maxine Cheshire

Because Julie Nixon Eisenhower is recuperating from surgery, a former colleague on The Saturday Evening Post has decided against publishing a personal account of what it was like working with her.

Robert Rich, listed with Mrs. Eisenhower on the masthead as an associate editor until he left the magazine several weeks ago, says he had already sold his story to a mid-western publication for $1,000.

Then Mrs. Eisenhower underwent emergency surgery for an ovarian cyst while in Indianapolis for her weekly conference with The Saturday Evening Post's editors. Rich felt the "gentlemanly" thing to do was withdraw his article, and is undecided about what to do with it for the time being.

Among the more interesting items in the scrapped manuscript is his statement that Mrs. Eisenhower now makes $15,000 a year. Previously, she made $10,000, plus expenses. Now, she just takes it all in a flat sum.

The funniest anecdote in Rich's recollections was an editorial conference in which someone suggested a story on Chicago's Mayor Richard Daley.

President Nixon's daughter came "close to losing her cool," says Rich.

"Do you think that's such a good idea?" she asked. "I mean he's such a *crook*."

The story idea was discarded on her veto.

House Speaker

When Rep. John Ashbrook (R-Ohio) wanted to invite Soviet writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn to address Congress, House Speaker Carl Albert declined the suggestion as not being "propitious."

Now Ashbrook has sent Albert a letter signed by himself and supported by 23 of his House colleagues, asking that the Speaker reconsider.

An invitation to Solzhenitsyn, Ashbrook says, would "put the Congress on record as defending the efforts and aspirations of those in the Soviet Union who are engaged in the same struggle."

Potpourri

The People's Republic of China bought more real estate here than it needed and has decided to sell the $300,000 house on S Street in the Embassy Row area